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TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 8351  
INFO RUEHHH/OPEC COLLECTIVE  
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RUEHBO/AMEMBASSY BOGOTA 7308  
RUEHBR/AMEMBASSY BRASILIA 5912  
RUEHBU/AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES 1597  
RUEHLP/AMEMBASSY LA PAZ 2497  
RUEHPE/AMEMBASSY LIMA 0766  
RUEHSP/AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN 3382  
RUEHQT/AMEMBASSY QUITO 2595  
RUEHSG/AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO 3913  
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ENERGY FOR CDAY, DPUMPHREY, AND ALOCKWOOD  
NSC FOR DTOMLINSON

E.O. 12958: DECL: 01/12/2017  
TAGS: [EPET](#) [ENRG](#) [EINV](#) [ECON](#) [VE](#)  
SUBJECT: ENERGY MINISTER RAMIREZ' MAY 3 SPEECH IN HOUSTON

Classified By: Acting Economic Counselor Shawn E. Flatt for Reason 1.4  
(D)

11. (U) This is an action request. Please see Paragraph 3.

12. (SBU) Energy Minister Rafael Ramirez is scheduled to give a major speech on May 3 at the 2007 Offshore Technology Conference in Houston, Texas. The speech will occur two days after PDVSA assumes operational control of the four strategic associations in the Faja, in addition to other major projects.

13. (C) Post suggests the Department or DOE to send a representative with the relevant policy experience to attend the speech. It is our understanding that the Venezuelan Embassy in Washington is in charge of invitations. The speech may be a major declaration of policy, given its timing and venue. A knowledgeable USG official on site might be able to handle press and private sector inquiries on the speech and U.S. policy vis a vis Venezuela. Senior private sector representatives will be attending the speech and they may want rapid access to USG officials for consultation purposes following the speech. Finally, if the speech contains major policy statements that have an impact on U.S. markets, failure to have a USG representative there invites press commentary.  
BROWNFIELD